Tsuki-gui Youma Taiji-shi

Moon Devouring Spirit Exorcist

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A BEAUTIFULLY DRAWN JAPANESE-STYLE FANTASY BY A NEW ARTIST!!
月喰妖魔退治師
MOON DEVOURING SPIRIT EXORCIST
I'M SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING FOR THE DANGO.
団子屋三連
SIGN: SANREN DANGO STORE
HERE YOU GO
HEY
HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY?
HMM?

AH, THOSE INCIDENTS IT'S SO FRIGHTENING
RECENTLY, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FOUND ROBBED AND EATEN BY ANIMALS AROUND HERE
IMAGINE IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS WERE TO HAPPEN
IF I KILLED YOU AND TOOK YOUR CLOTHING,
THEN GAVE IT TO SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T HAVE MUCH MONEY...
IF SOMEONE WAS KILLING AND STEALING FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS,
COULD YOU SAY THAT I WAS "EVIL"?
COULD YOU SAY FOR SURE THAT THAT PERSON WAS "EVIL"?

-HUH?
HE DIDN'T CUT ME?
!?
A-A FOX?!
THAT BLACK SMOKY STUFF... WHAT IS IT?
THAT'S AN "AYAKASHI"

I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.
SO YOU CAN SEE "AYAKASHI"?
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY,
SO CAN WE WORK SOMETHING OUT?
もり
もり

A BEAUTIFULLY DRAWN JAPANESE-STYLE FANTASY BY A NEW ARTIST!!

月喰妖魔退治師

Does the swordsman under the moonlight kill "evil"

or does he kill "justice"?

MOON DEVOURING SPIRIT EXORCIST

Mita Azuya

巳茶あずや

WINNER OF THE 18TH SQUARE ENIX GRAND PRIZE

団子
団子屋三連
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
FOR YOUR INFORMATION,
I DON'T GO EASY ON THOSE WHO RUN AWAY WITHONT PAYING.
I'LL MAKE YOU WORK HARD TO PAY FOR THOSE DANGO YOU ATE!
AH

YOU'RE COUGHING, SAKURA.
IF IT HURTS, LET ME TAKE THE ORDER
OKAY, THANKS
BIG BROTHER ONE ORDER OF DANGO, PLEASE
WHY? BECAUSE YOU ATE THE DANGO, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD NO MONEY!
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS ?
Are you messing around with me?!
THANKS FOR WAITING
WASHING PLATES IS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT
WELL, MY NAME DOESN'T REALLY MATTER JUST CALL ME "TRAVELLER"
THAT SOUNDS A BIT FORMAL OUR MEETING MUST BE SOME KIND OF FATE, A FATE CALLED DANGO...
AH
Shall I help you?
HMM? OH, RIGHT
AH, I DIDN'T ASK YOUR NAME YET
MR. TRAVELLER, YOU SHOULDN'T EAT WITHOUT PAYING!!

...YES THIS DANGO SHOP IS AN IMPORTANT MEMENTO OF OUR PARENTS, WHO PASSED AWAY.
HMM?
YOU AND YOUR BROTHER... IT'S JUST THE TWO OF YOU?

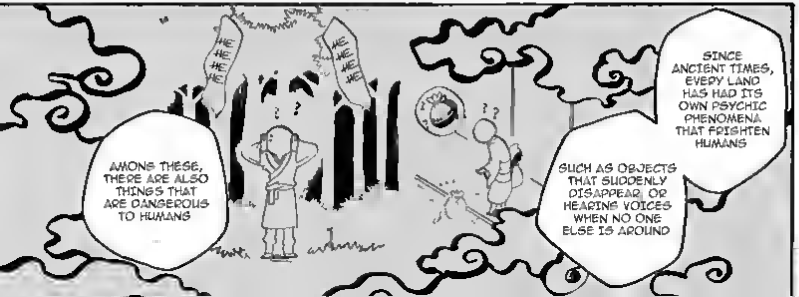
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT... I'M SORRY.
AND
FIRST OF ALL, LET ME JUST SAY THAT MY BROTHER AND I AREN'T RICH AT ALL!
IF HE HAS TO, MY BIG BROTHER CATCHES PEOPLE WHO DO THAT!!

AND AN HONEST PERSON I LOOK UP TO.
HE'S MY ONLY FAMILY.

MY BIG BROTHER RAISED ME IN PLACE OF OUR PARENTS
The weather's great.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AH!!
BY THE WAY MR. TRAVELLER, YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT WASHING DISHES.
You haven't washed it once!
?

SIGN SANREN DANGO STORE


AMONG THESE, THERE ARE ALSO THINGS THAT ARE DANGEROUS TO HUMANS
SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, EVERY LAND HAS HAD ITS OWN PSYCHIC PHENOMENA THAT FRIGHTEN HUMANS
SUCH AS OBJECTS THAT SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR, OR HEARING VOICES WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS AROUND

THE CAUSE OF THESE PHENOMENA ARE
"AYAKASHI".
SO THESE AYAKASHI
ARE LIKE HIM
DON'T CALL ME THAT!
I'M KOROMO, ASAGI'S ATTENDANT!
THE DANGEROUS AYAKASHI POSSESS HUMANS AND USE THEIR HATRED TO FURTHER THEIR TRANSFORMATION
THE POSSESSED END UP BECOMING AYAKASHI WITHOUT ANY SENSE OF REASON
SO YOU'RE SOMETHING DANGEROUS AND EVIL?
I'M NOT EVIL, I'M GOOD!
BUT YOU ATE THOSE DANGO WITHOUT ASKING!

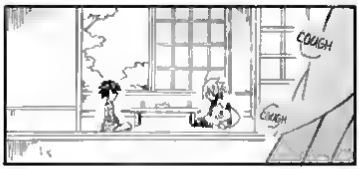
BUT HUMANS NORMALLY CANNOT SEE AYAKASHI
IT'S EXTREMELY RARE... BUT THERE ARE SOME AYAKASHI THAT POSSESS ANIMALS
BUT I THOUGHT THEY ONLY POSSESSED HUMANS
A FOX...
IF IT'D BEEN LEFT ALONE IT WOULD HAVE BECOME A COMPLETE AYAKASHI AND A SOURCE OF DANGER
FOR EXAMPLE THE FOX THAT I KILLED
WHEN DID YOU TWO START TO SEE THEM?
YOU DION'T SEEM THAT SURPRISED WHEN YOU SAW KOROMO
...

WHO ARE YOU?
WHY DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT AYAKASHI?
WHY
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, WHEN WAS IT...?
I'M
JUST A TRAVELLER.

H-HEY, SAKURA!
ARE YOU OKAY?! YOU SHOULD LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE!
I'M OKAY
IT'S JUST A LITTLE COUGH
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY ALL ALONG!
I AM BEING SERIOUS
THAT MAKES IT EVEN WORSE!
I'M JUST A PENNILESS TRAVELLER
どっ!!
DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO ACCEPT THAT?

むりだっ
UH...
YOU'RE NOT OKAY!

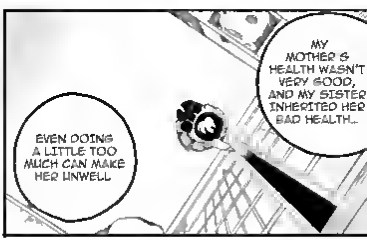
YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF


COUGH
COUGH

I KNOW

IS YOUR LITTLE SISTER SICK?
...SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN WEAK.

I ACTUALLY DIDN'T WANT HER TO WORK AT THE DANGO SHOP BUT SHE INSISTED UPON IT.
I want to eat too!
THE STATE DOESN'T HELP US EITHER SO I'M WORRIED FOR HER


MY MOTHER'S HEALTH WASN'T VERY GOOD, AND MY SISTER INHERITED HER BAD HEALTH...
EVEN DOING A LITTLE TOO MUCH CAN MAKE HER UNWELL

ANYWAY, YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS ASAGI RIGHT? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BUT I DON'T WANT YOU BRINGING ANY MORE TROUBLE OUR WAY
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO PROTECT

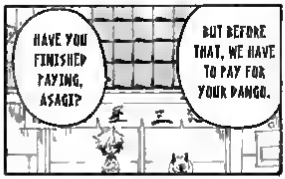
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE RESPECTS ME A LOT AND THINKS I'M AN HONEST PERSON
THAT'S WHY I'VE GOT TO BE EVEN MORE RESPONSIBLE

NEVER MIND THAT, GET BACK TO WORK! PAY FOR WHAT THE CAT ATE TOO!
MY NAME IS KOROMO!
YOU'RE SO NOISY!
YOU SHOULD JUST SAY YES AT TIMES LIKE THIS, EVEN IF IT MEANS LYING!
BANG
I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN DO THAT.
Hmm
The dango!

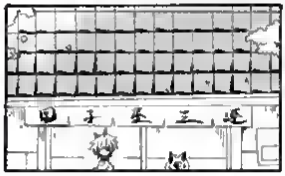
SO

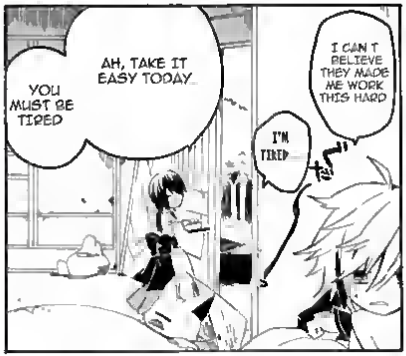
IT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE TO SEE AYAKASHI, BUT NOW THAT PEOPLE CAN...
DID YOU FIND ANY INFORMATION WHILE IN TOWN?
THIS CAN ONLY MEAN THAT THERE'S A POSSESSIVE SPIRIT IN THIS AREA.
IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE HAPPENING JUST AROUND THIS DANGO SHOP, NOT ALL OVER TOWN.

ALTHOUGH I EXORCISED THAT FOX, THOSE TWO CAN STILL SEE THE AYAKASHI
WHICH MEANS...



SIGN SANREN DANGO SHOP





YES..
YOUR NAME IS ASAGI, ISN'T IT?
YOUR PANGO TASTE GREAT, SAKURA-CHAN!
KOROMO LET IT SLIP OUT..

YEAH SOMETHING LIKE THAT..
ARE YOU..
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHY YOU'RE TRAVELLING. ARE YOU DOING SOME KIND OF SECRET JOB?

SOMETHING LIKE A MESSENGER OF JUSTICE WHO FIGHTS BAD GUYS?

YOU STOPPED THE POSSESSION OF THAT FOX BEFORE IT BECAME A BAD AYAKASHI
LIKE WHAT HAPPENED AT LUNCH
YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT AYAKASHI
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
ASAGI-SAN.
YOU'RE THE JUSTICE THAT PROTECTS PEOPLE FROM HARM.
YOU ARE JUSTICE, BIG BROTHER ASAGI

ANY-WAY..
SOME-THING S HAPPENED! ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE INCIDENTS!
EVEN THOUGH YOU PROTECT HUMANS FROM AYAKASHI?
I WONDER AROUT THAT I CAN'T REALLY BE CALLED JUSTICE
SO IT'S NOT JUST AT THE DANGO SHOP. BUT NOW IT'S SPREAD INTO THE TOWN TOO?!
RIGHT NEXT TO THE NOODLE SHOP IN TOWN SOMEONE WAS MURDERED! THE REMAINS WERE EATEN BY AN ANIMAL!
LET'S GO, KORO-MO!
HMM?!
AH!
HEY, YOU!
BIG BRO-THER...!
THE TOWN?
BIG BROTHER IS
I wanted to eat dango

BIG BROTHER, YOU'RE SAFE, RIGHT? YOU DIDN'T GET INVOLVED IN WHAT HAPPENED, DID YOU?
ぎゅっ
SCAREDY-CAT
....

BUT..
ASAGI SAN DOESN'T REALLY TALK ABOUT HIMSELF
WAS HE SAYING SOMETHING BAD ABOUT ME..?
HE'S A KIND PERSON.
ざわ
ざわ
ASAGI. THOSE ARE THE REMAINS OF SOMEONE WHO WAS EATEN BY AN ANIMAL, RIGHT?
IT'S SOMEONE ELSE.
GET OUT OF THE WAY
C'MON IT OVER THERE.

ISN'T IT ODD THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS ONLY HAPPENED WHILE SAKURA-CHAN'S BROTHER WAS OUT?
HMM...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING AFTER THE SHOP!
YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED THIS HAIRPIN, HAVEN'T YOU?
HERE YOU GO.
HMM? OH, THAT DISTURBANCE FORGET ABOUT THAT...
BIG BROTHER... SOMETHING HAPPENED IN TOWN, AND WE WERE WORRIED...

THANK YOU, BIG BROTHER! THIS IS SUCH A SURPRISE!
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU TWO!
WELL, OF COURSE YOU DON'T.
BUT DO YOU REALLY HAVE THE MONEY FOR SOMETHING EXPENSIVE LIKE THIS?
I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN SAVING UP FOR IT...

I DON'T
WANT TO...

KILL ANY-MORE...
AGAIN...
SO KILL ME...
DREAM AGAIN...

JEEZ, KOROMO...!
.....
I'LL GO GET SOME FRESH AIR.
IS THIS HER BROTHER'S APRON?
THE MOON LOOKS NICE THIS EVENING
SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WAIT FOR THE CULPRIT'S NEXT MOVE OR..
HMM?
THIS RED STAIN IS...BLOOD?!

I THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE THINGS SLOWLY.
BUT YOU ACTED FASTER THAN I IMAGINED YOU WOULD.
...
I KNEW IT.

I HAD MORE MONEY THAN USUAL AND THE INCIDENTS WERE HAPPENING AROUND ME
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF THE STRANGE OCCURRENCES
YOU'RE THE AYAKASHI THAT'S POSSESSING PEOPLE.
I TRIED LEAVING SIGNS THAT AN ANIMAL HAD BEEN THERE. BUT YOU WEREN'T FOOLED
ONLY HUMANS NEED MONEY
THE MAJORITY OF THE INCIDENTS INVOLVED MONEY.
THE MOON LOOKS NICE TONIGHT
WELL

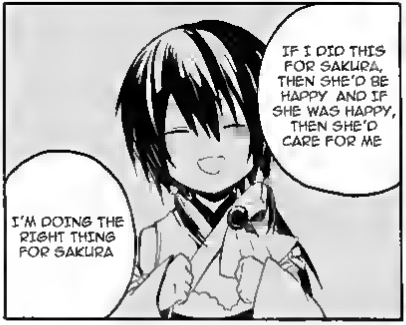
WE RE GOING TO EXORCISE THAT AYAKASHI KOROMO
GOT IT, ASAGI!
どろん
!
JUST WHAT
ARE YOU?

SO YOU CAN CONTROL AYAKASHI?
TRYING TO DECEIVE ME WON'T WORK.
BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HAH...YOU... HOW DARE YOU POINT YOUR SWORD AT ME!
BEING CALLED A POSSESSIVE SPIRIT ISN'T ENOUGH?
UH...
THEN LET ME TELL YOU THIS

JUST WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A MURDEROUS EVIL SPIRIT.

I NEEDED MONEY TO LIVE WITH SAKURA, WHO WASN'T WELL
BUT THE DANGO SHOP DIDN'T MAKE ENOUGH MONEY FOR US TO SURVIVE


IF I DID THIS FOR SAKURA, THEN SHE'D BE HAPPY AND IF SHE WAS HAPPY, THEN SHE'D CARE FOR ME
I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR SAKURA

YOU..

I DID THIS SO WE COULD LIVE! I DID THIS FOR SAKURA!
I HAD NO CHOICE!

SAKURA SAID I WAS JUSTICE.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANY THING YOU CAN'T SAY ANYTHING
YOU'RE JUST A STRANGER BRINGING TROUBLE...
HOW CAN YOU
HEY.
THIS IS BAD!

GAH...!!
UNDER-STAND ANY-THING?!
REALLY BAD!
HE'S BECOMING AN AYAKASHI...!
ASAGI!

!!
DAMN IT...
WHY ARE YOU MAKING SO MUCH NOISE THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
BIG BROTHER? ASAGI-SAN?
HEY, SAKURA.
I'M JUSTICE, AREN'T I?

SAKU...
NO...
DON'T TOUCH ME!
MONSTER....!
NO...
IT'S DANGEROUS, SAKURA-CHAN! STAY BACK!
IF I DON'T GET SAKURA AWAY FROM HIM...
UH.
GO AWAY!

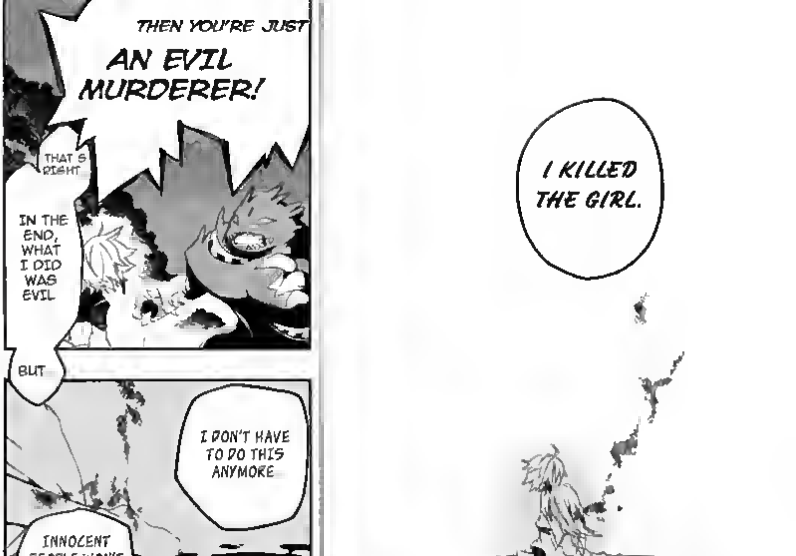
I'VE RAISED YOU UNTIL NOW...
BUT IF YOU WON'T SAY I'M JUSTICE THEN I DON'T NEED YOU.

AH..
UH... SAKURA-CHAN...?
ASAGI!
YOU NUI-SANCE! YOU NUI-SANCE!

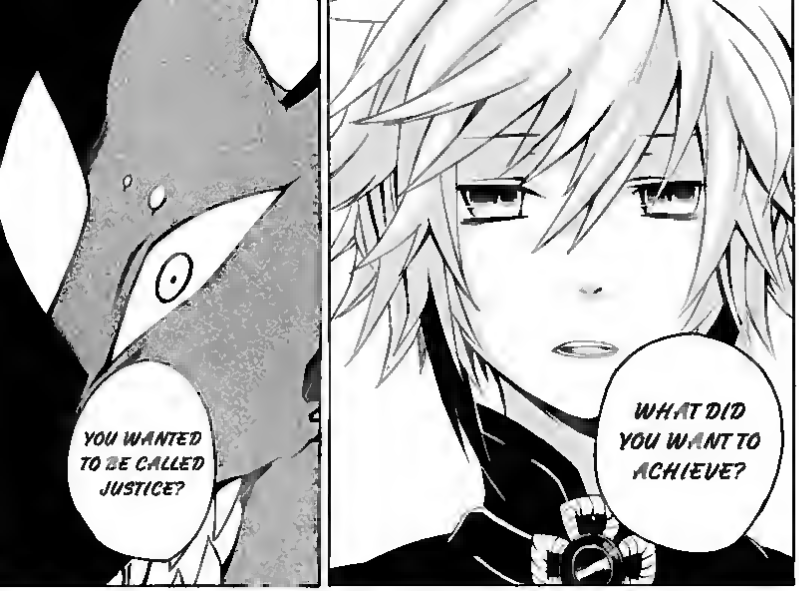
UH...!
HE'S COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED INTO AN AYAKASHI...!
ANYONE WHO GETS IN THE WAY OF JUSTICE ISN'T NEEDED...
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH
ASAGI...
PEOPLE FLATTER YOU BY CALLING YOU JUSTICE
BUT WHEN THEY DON'T FLATTER YOU, YOU ABANDON THEM.

WHAT ARE YOU KILLING PEOPLE FOR?
YOUR ACTIONS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN EVIL
THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
KILL ME AND PRETEND TO BE JUSTICE?
HOW NAIVE!
IMAGINE IF THIS WERE TO HAPPEN
A BOY AND A GIRL WERE SENT AWAY BECAUSE OF THEIR FAMILIES' SITUATIONS
AS NEIGHBOURS THEY GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER
THE BOY WAS SENT TO A RELIABLE FAMILY, WHILE THE GIRL WAS SENT TO A CRUEL ONE
SHE WAS TREATED UNFAIRLY

THEN SHE BECAME POSSESSED BY AN AYAKASHI.
THE GIRL BEGAN TO HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST THE FAMILY.
WHEN SHE MOMENTARILY RETURNED TO HER SENSES, THE GIRL FEARED WHAT SHE HAD DONE
WHEN THE BOY RAN TO WHERE SHE WAS, IT HAD BECOME A SEA OF BLOOD
HER TRANSFORMATION INTO AN AYAKASHI CONTINUED UNTIL SHE LOST ALL HER SENSE OF REASON, RAGING HER FANGS AT THE PEOPLE IN THAT HOME
THEN...
THE GIRL ASKED THE BOY, WHO SHE CARED FOR LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER, TO STOP HER.
TO STOP HER TRANSFORMATION INTO AN AYAKASHI FROM CONTINUING,
IF SHE LOST HER SENSES, SHE WOULD KILL AGAIN.


THEN YOU'RE JUST
AN EVIL MURDERER!
THAT'S RIGHT.
IN THE END, WHAT I DID WAS EVIL.
BUT...
I DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ANYMORE.
INNOCENT PEOPLE WON'T HAVE TO BE INVOLVED ANYMORE.
I KILLED THE GIRL.

YOU'RE JUSTICE, BIG BROTHER ASAGI.
HEY...
THANK YOU.
YOU PROTECTED ME.
FROM FEAR.
YOU PROTECTED THOSE PEOPLE.


YOU WANTED TO BE CALLED JUSTICE?
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE?

BIG BROTHER!

I CAN
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? NOTHING!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE LIKE THIS!
I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN JUSTICE!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT SAKURA!
JUSTICE
WHAT DID I WANT?
I.
THAT'S RIGHT.
JUSTICE

THE MOON LOOKS NICE TONIGHT...
DEVOUR THE MOON.
IT'S JUST LIKE...
HIS WOUNDS ARE HEALING?!
WHAT...?! LIGHT GATHERED AROUND THE BLADE...
!!?

HAVE YOU HEARD OF A DEMON BLADE?
HE'S DEVOURING THE MOON...!
A SWORD WITH THE POWER TO KILL AYAKASHI.
W-WHAT ARE YOU?!
I'LL KILL YOU.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE ANYMORE
I'LL TELL YOU IN THIS FINAL MOMENT.

MY NAME IS ASAGI. I M IN THE SERVICE OF THE EMPIRE
AS AN EXORCIST OF DEMONS.
KOWAH

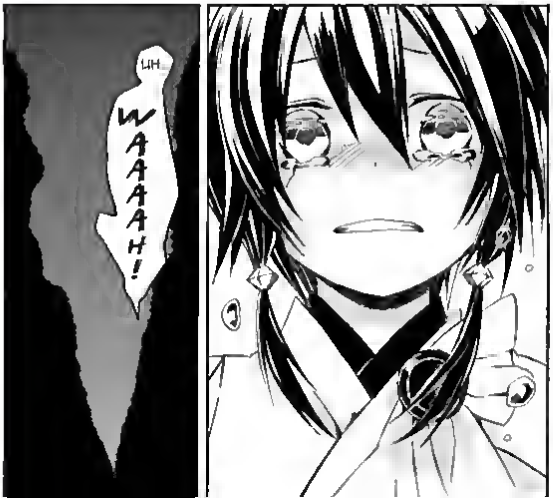
EVEN THOUGH I'D DONE BAD THINGS TO GET THEM, SO I DID EVEN MORE BAD THINGS FOR SAKURA'S SAKE...
I FELT HAPPY WHEN I SAW HOW THOSE THINGS I'D GOTTEN MADE SAKURA HAPPY.
I...
SO YOU WERE A SPY FOR THIS COUNTRY?
I HATE YOU..
EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO PROTECT SAKURA, I ENDED UP LOSING HER
WHAT WAS I DOING?
BUT I'M A LITTLE GRATEFUL

ARE YOU OKAY, SAKURA-CHAN?!
ARE YOU HURT?!
BIG BRO-THER?
MY BROTHER ASAGI-SAN?
DID YOU KILL
WHY...
WHY...
HE HELD MY HAND BACK THEN..
WHY...? BUT ASAGI-SAN IS A KIND PERSON...

YOU EVIL MAN! YOU EVIL MAN!
SAKURA-CHAN...
GIVE ME BACK MY BIG BROTHER!
YOU MURDERER!

YOU

LET'S GO, KOROMO.
EH... O-OKAY...


UH...
WAAAAH!

HEY, ASAGI.
I DON'T REALLY LIKE WORKING AS A DEMON EXORCIST.
DEFEATING THE POSSESSIVE SPIRITS PREVENTS PEOPLE FROM GETTING HURT, BUT HAVING PEOPLE HATE US
IS DIFFICULT TO BEAR
IT'S BETTER NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO ANYONE
THEN THEY CAN HATE ME WITHOUT FEELING ANY REMORSE
AND THAT DEMON BLADE! ITS POWER MAY BE USEFUL, BUT DOESN'T IT REDUCE YOUR LIFESPAN??
DON'T USE IT TOO OFTEN!
YES.
IF THAT KIND OF THING WERE TO HAPPEN A LITTLE LESS OFTEN...
We should ask to be paid more for this
BUT I
FINE! LET'S THINK ABOUT SOMETHING FUN!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THIS UP FIRST
YOU'RE TALKING NONSENSE, ASAGI STOP THINKING ABOUT NEGATIVE THINGS ALL THE TIME!
KOROMO WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL KILL ME FIRST? WILL IT BE SOMEONE WHO HOLDS A GRUDGE AGAINST ME OR WILL IT BE THE DEMON BLADE?
ASAGI?

IMAGINE IF THIS WERE TO HAPPEN.
A CERTAIN PERSON KILLED A MAN WHO HAD COMMITTED CRIMES FOR THE SAKE OF HIS SISTER.
WOULD YOU CALL THAT JUSTICE?
OR...
AN UNUSUAL JOURNEY CONTINUES UNDER THE MOONLIGHT...
END